

Saw me by scribbles from
all parts of the country.

Mr. Cook's lectures are really
a very curious phenomenon in
themselves and in their audiences.
It certainly implies some unusual
gifts to be able to hold the attention
of such numbers for so long a
time. Grant him as much intelligence
and as wide superficial study as we
may, it is not these alone which
account for what apparent success he
has had. In the first place his lectures
have been thrust on us through the
Daily Advertiser, which seemed to endorse them.
But more than this he is borne along on
an undercurrent which involves more eloquent
social, educational and personal antagonisms
than I could spread upon if this half inch of paper
were a whole sheet of potboilers. — Thanking you again
for your many and gentle and keen criticisms I am
Always truly yours Olet to me

Gift of Susan Loring, June 27, 1984

296 Beacon St. Dec. 22^d
1877.

My dear Dr Gray,

I take it for granted
that you wrote the criticism
on Mr. Cook's Lectures, in
the New Englander. I think
all sober students and
lovers of truth feel obliged
to you for the dignified
rebuff of the wild talk
and foolish demonstrations
we have heard and seen
so much of during the last

year or two. I have known
something of Mr. Cook in the
days when he was Flavius Josephus
C. and I find him now as
true a man of disordered ~~thought~~ ^{way}
of thinking, proferring to be
logical but as erratic as a willow-wisp.
As for his rhetoric I am glad
you did not spare it and
also that you treated as it
deserves the Club-Fab applause
which betrayed better than anything
else could do the prevailing
grade of intelligence and education
in his much vaunted audience.

I went to one of his lectures
and old citizen as I am and
not unacquainted with the
faces of most of our leading
men of intellect, I saw but
a single face I recognised -
that of "the American Plato", as
Mr. Cook calls him; Mr.
A. Bronson Alcott, his constant
listener, a charming old gentleman
with a mind as receptive of
every thing that looks like
a new gospel as my waste-
basket is of foolish stuff
in print and manuscript